

Message Text

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70

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTe-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 DHA-02 MCT-01

FBIE-00 /033 W

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P R 182233Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1702

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PINS, CA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - BOMB THREAT ON EASTERN AIRLINES AIRCRAFT,
MONTREAL

REF: MONTREAL 1755

1. STU GRANT, EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (MOT), MORNING OF NOVEMBER 19 TOLD TCO THE EASTERN PILOT PUSHED HIS HIJACK BUTTON WHEN HE WAS ABOUT 10 MILES (OR FIVE MINUTES) OUT OF MONTREAL. MOT OTTAWA WAS NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY BY THE AIR TRAFFIC CENTER. THERE WERE A FEW MOMENTS OF CONFUSION AS AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO ASCERTAIN THAT AIRCRAFT'S MESSAGE HAD BEEN SENT ON PROPER CHANNEL AND CODE (IN VIEW OF CHANGES MADE ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO), BUT MESSAGE ACCURACY WAS VERIFIED. FAA HAD OPENED A DIRECT LINE TO THE MOT OPERATIONS CENTER A FEW MINUTES BEFORE THE FLIGHT LANDED AT 11:52 A.M. BUT IT WAS NOT UNTIL AFTER THE LANDING THAT FAA COMMUNICATED SPECIFIC INFORMATION TO MOT. BY THAT TIME MONTREAL AIRPORT WAS IN A STATE OF ALERT. MOT INFORMED EXTAFF OF SITUATION ABOUT 12:15 P.M. ONLY PROBLEM AT MONTREAL WAS THAT AIRCRAFT WAS PERMITTED TO PROCEED TO PASSENGER TERMINAL INSTEAD OF BEING DIRECTED IMMEDIATELY TO ISOLATION AREA SINCE A BOMB THREAT WAS INVOLVED. AFTER
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THE PASSENGERS DISEMBARKED THE PLANE WAS TOWED TO THE ISOLATION

AREA WHERE INSPECTION TOOK PLACE AND BAGGAGE WAS UNLOADED.
GRANT SAID HE INTENDS TO MAKE SURE BOMB THREATENED PLANES
IN FUTURE ARE SENT DIRECTLY TO ISOLATION AREA.

2. POLICE TOOK INTO CUSTODY JOSEPH RAYMOND DENIS BOUTIN
SUSPECTED OF MAKING THE BOMB THREAT. ACCORDING TO GRANT,
THERE WERE CANADIAN ARREST WARRANTS OUTSTANDING FOR BOUTIN
AND HE WAS ALSO BEING DEPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES. A
HEARING WILL BE HELD TODAY TO DETERMINE BOUTIN'S PROBABLE ROLE.

3. GRANT ALSO STATED THAT THE CANADIAN AIRLINES PILOTS ASSOCIATION
(CALPA) HAS IN THE PAST EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT UNESCORTED
DEPORTEES GOING AS PASSENGERS ON AIRLINE FLIGHTS AND HE
SUGGESTED THAT BOUTIN'S PRESENCE ON THIS FLIGHT -- PARTICULARLY
IF IT IS SHOWN THAT HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BOMB THREAT --
WILL CAUSE CALPA TO PRESS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATE ARRANGE-
MENTS RE DEPORTEES. GRANT SAID HE IS LOOKING INTO THIS
PROBLEM WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING STATISTICALLY WHAT THE
NUMBERS ARE AND WHAT THE INCIDENCE OF PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN IN
THE PAST.

4. COMMENT: INS REP OTTAWA HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT DEPORTEE
WAS ESCORTED BY TWO INS OFFICERS AND WAS TURNED OVER TO RCMP
UPON ARRIVAL IN MONTREAL. EMBASSY WILL SO ADVISE GRANT.
ENDERS

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